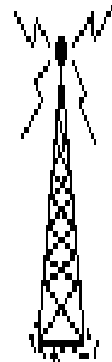


The Blue Ridge Echo .. Echo .. Echo ..



**Official Transmitter of the Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club
- W4YK -**

Volume 23, Number 1 – January 2010

The Prez Sez — I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Thank you for making this past year successful with your involvement in activities such as bike rides, Field Day, parades, the fair, numerous contests, picnics and dinners. I really hated being sick on the night of the Christmas dinner. I want to thank Craig for standing in for me. I look forward to an even greater year. I know there is a half marathon this year along with the usual parades and the fair again in September. Thanks so much for all you have done.

Danny Rector, AJ4HZ

MEETING MINUTES OF December 1, 2009 — The December meeting of the Blue Ridge Amateur Club was held at the Twin Dragons Chinese restaurant in Brevard, North Carolina. We were to meet there at 6:00 p.m. As best as Lil, KG4GFP, and I could count there were 33 present. This was members and their guests, most of which were XYLs. From all the dirty plates stacked around, I would say everyone had a great, and filling, time.

This is one meeting where hardly any business is conducted, unless it is something very important. The only thing to really report is that two sign-up sheets were passed around for operators to volunteer help in the Hendersonville, N.C., and the Fletcher, N.C. Christmas parades. We also wish to thank everyone that turned out for the two parades. The parade in Hendersonville took place on a blustery morning that was cold, rainy, and snowy. There was no rain or snow for the Fletcher parade; but it was cold. The temperature was in the twenties as the crew assembled at Town Hall for a quick breakfast and instructions.

Ah, yes! Some of you are wondering who won the Begali key! Duke, W4DK, got everyone's attention, and asked one of the waiters to draw the ticket from a small bucket. The waiter stirred the stubs around several times, closed his eyes, and pulled one. Duke gave the call sign of the lucky winner.....KG4OAX.....that didn't rings any bells. Well, that call belongs to Deborah Glover of Rock Hill, South Carolina. Congratulations, Deborah!! Tom, Deborah's husband, bought six tickets at the Morganton hamfest. Being the gentleman that he is, he split the tickets with his wife.....he gave her two and kept four for himself. When Duke called Deborah to tell her she had won, she explained she had never won anything. U.P.S. delivered the key to her on the 3rd of December. THANKS to all who participated in the raffle. We thank Duke for heading up this project. By the way, Will, WI1L, won a \$50 dollar prize for selling most tickets.

I guess that is about it. Everyone have a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year! Happy Hanukkah!

Respectfully submitted,
Sid Hendricks

Our Next Meeting: January 5, 2010

7:00 pm – Dave, K4SV – DXpedition to St. Barthelemy, TO5DX

BRARC Assists the Parade – Despite a Winter Weather Advisory, 15 members arrived at 5-corners to help organize the Hendersonville Parade on December 5th. But first, Danny, AJ4HZ, had to organize us organizers. So, at 8:30am he opened his outdoor office and distributed a remarkable, full-color set of procedures, responsibilities, and marching positions. (See Photo) These instructions brought welcome order to the otherwise chaotic set-up of marchers. About 80 units paraded on schedule at 10:30am.



Danny was overall Director of communications; Debbie, AD2H was his Assistant Director. Duke, W4DK, as Marshall shepherded the units onto Main Street. Martin, W4FOT, operated the portable repeater providing essential communications among those of us lining up marching units. Participating were:

Duke, W4DK	Dan, K2DRM	Martin, W4FOT	George, K3GK	Michael, AI4GR
Debbie, AD2H	Ron, KF4HAT	Danny, AJ4HZ	Dick, K4KQJ	Will, WI1L
Frank, WN4NC	David, KG4NUW	Ronnie, K2SST	Gene, KG4SXE	Harry, N4ZVX

...And The Fletcher Parade, Too – It was a bitterly cold and dark morning, December 12, 2009, when 12 hams bravely stepped out of their cars/trucks/vehicles at the Fletcher Town Hall (at least it felt that way.) Bundled and layered as much as possible we had breakfast, supplied by Fletcher Parks and Rec, and then scattered to our operating positions to get the parade lined up and underway by 10:30 that morning. Fortunately, the weather didn't turn rainy or snowy, but the fingers and toes got a might chilled.

Thanks to all of the Hams who turned out:

Steve Remsen, KJ4CRQ	Duke Knief, W4DK	George Korper, K3GK	Debbie Hicks, AD2H
Sid Hendricks, W4IOE	John Quinn, N9JZX	Will Hicks, WI1L	Frank Forrester, WN4NC
Bob Delwiche, KD4OKT	Gene Mathis, KG4SXE	George Carter, KB4YBB	Harry Ryttenberg, N4ZVX

They all did a marvelous job and, as usual, the Town leaders were very appreciative of our efforts. We're looking forward to next year. (authored by Dick, K4KQJ, who organized our efforts)

Swept Up – Wow! We had operators to work the entire contest period of the 2009 November Sweepstakes. –and it showed. Our 2009 score easily surpassed previous tallies.



Over our 24-hour operation we contacted a terrific 76 of the 80 possible USA and Canadian Sections. We missed only West Central Florida, Southern NJ, Manitoba, and Northwest Territories. 356 QSOs were logged, giving us a total score of 54,112. We'll know the final results, including NC standings, when published in QST. For comparison, last year we made 265 QSOs and scored 38,160. Our 2009 effort even climbed above the record 1995 club's 297 QSOs and score of 42,174.

Contesting from the shack were: Steve, KJ4CRQ; Craig, KD4DFV; Herbert, KI4FSP; Michael, AI4GR; Danny, AJ4HZ; Sid, W4IOE; Rusty, KG4JGQ; Larry, W4LEB; and Jonathan, KF4NVX.

We Have A New Antenna – During recent contests, we noticed trouble using the Zepp on 80m. Upon lowering it from the tower the cause became apparent; the feedline had separated from one half of the antenna. Since the antenna was lowered, we took the opportunity to replace it with a 270-foot Off-Center-Fed dipole.

Unlike the Zepp, the OCF antenna can operate on 160m, as well as on higher bands. On 80m it has a lower take-off angle than the Zepp, permitting DX contacts to be made. The first night of operating by Rusty, KG4JGQ, reached the Midwest and England on 160m, and several DX stations on 80m. So things look good for DXing and contesting. Installing the antenna were Rusty, KG4JGQ, Ronnie, K2SST, and Michael, AI4GR.

Carol News – Our long-time club member and active ham, K4YYR, now is Carol Fielder. November 28th was her Special Day, and we wish the bride and groom much happiness in their years together.



ARES Notes

The Wednesday ARES training net starts at 8:30PM.

The Henderson County Chapter of the American Red Cross now has an HF antenna supplementing the VHF/UHF antenna. It is a G5RV intended to communicate with distant emergency operations such as those that may be needed by the Red Cross at Raleigh, Asheville, or Columbia. The feedline enters the building via conduit at the same location as the VHF/UHF feed. The antenna and feedline were installed by Duke, W4DK, with assistance from Danny, AJ4HZ, and Rusty, KG4JGQ.

Will, WI1L
Emergency Coordinator, Henderson County



- DUES FOR 2010 ARE DUE -

Mark Your Calendar —

- 16 -17 January – North American QSO Party
- 23 – 24 January – ARRL VHF Contest
- 28 February – NC QSO Party

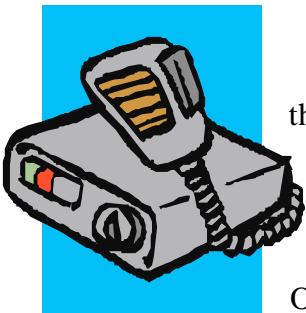
Please notify the editor if dates change, or as new events arise.

ITEMS FOR SALE

ICOM IC-02AT 2m handheld, mint condition. Make an offer.
Walt, KO4JN < walter134@morrisbb.net >

- 1) **Yaesu FT 900 Transceiver and FP 800 Power supply \$450.00**
 - 2) **Ameriton AL 80B Amplifier \$800.00**
 - 3) **Kenwood MC 60 Microphone \$75.00**
 - 4) **MFJ 1621 Antenna System 40/10 Mtrs \$40.00**
 - 5) **Daiwa CN 720B SWR meter \$75.00**
- Contact Danny, rectord@bellsouth.net

If you have items for sale, or need something, notify the editor.



PTT ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Jim Boehner, N2ZZ, of Aiken, South Carolina won the ARRL election for Vice-Director of the Roanoke Division

The Rover team of Kathleen, AJ4FV, and Michael, AI4GR, took first place in the Limited Rover class of the Roanoke Division for the 2009 ARRL June VHF QSO Party. In their travels they activated 4 grids and totaled 87 QSOs on 6m, 1.25m, 2m, and 70cm. Operating in Portable Class from Mt Mitchell, Bob, KB5YZG, took 1st Place of the Roanoke Division in the same VHF QSO Party. A good showing by 3 club members.

The Tarheel Emergency Net is moving to 160m. The plan is to start at 1.943, then if the frequency is in use, move up by 10 kHz increments.

———— AI4GR is clear.

- DUES FOR 2010 ARE DUE -

**Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club
Points Of Contact**

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Secretary:

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828-553-8116 will@willstech.com

VE Testing: Sid Hendricks, See above

Membership: - Lil Clark, See above

Public Relations: Dick Smith, See above

Trustee: Steve Smith, KC5F - 828-697-6388
kc5f@arrl.net

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Club Information

Address: Blue Ridge Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 831, Horse Shoe NC 28742

Website: <http://www.radioclub.org/>

Dues: Our dues cover the period from January through December. Dues for additional related members in the same household as a Full or Associate member are one-half the applicable rate. Dues for full-time students of an accredited school are one-half the regular rate as long as student status is maintained. New members joining between July and December pay one-half the applicable rate for membership through the end of the year. This year's dues are \$20.00 per person; \$10.00 per additional family member.

Please send your renewals to: Lil Clark, 15 Autumn Glen Ct., Brevard, NC 28712

Meetings: We meet at the Stoney Mountain Activity Center at 7:00 pm on the first Tuesday of each month.

\$

Financial Report: December 2009 - Lil Clark

Balance as of 11/30/09	\$ 2459.61
Plus: Deposits	157.00
Less: Expenses	<u>452.04</u>
Balance as of 12/15/09	\$ 2164.57

\$

Purpose: The purpose of the club is to further the exchange of information and cooperation between members, to promote radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual operating efficiency, and to promote and conduct programs and activities as to advance the general interest and welfare of amateur radio in the community.

Elmers: We have many "Elmers." An Elmer is a knowledgeable amateur radio operator who is willing to help new hams and "students" with questions or procedures and help them to understand more about the hobby.

Volunteer Examinations: Once per quarter, our volunteer examiners provide an opportunity to get your amateur license or to upgrade your present status.
NEXT SESSION: February 13, 2010

Contact Sid, W4IOE, for details.

Classes: We occasionally have classes so you can learn how to get your own amateur radio Technician class license.



A message from the editor..... Articles and submissions for the Echo should be sent by the 15th of each month.

If you have something to add to our newsletter, send it to: Michael, AI4GR.

Call me at: 828-891-8970 or E-mail me at:

ai4gr@arrl.net



Nets and On-The-Air Activities

Net	Freq / PL	Day	Time
BRARC Net	146.640 MHz/ 91.5	Sunday	8:00 PM
Henderson County ARES Net	146.640 MHz / 91.5	Wednesday	8:30 PM
440 Rag Chew	442.225 MHz/107.2	Monday	8:00 PM
Red Cross Communicators	146.640 MHz/91.5	Sunday	9:00 PM
Mount Mitchell 6m Net	53.630 MHz/100	Friday	8:00 PM
QCWA Chapter 76	3.625 MHz (SSB)	Saturday	8:45 AM
Buncombe ARES Net	146.910 MHz/ 91.5	Wednesday	9:00 PM
Good Morning Net	146.760 MHz	M-W-F	9:00 AM
WCARS Info. Net	146.910 MHz/ 91.5	Monday	9:00 PM
6600 Net	145.190 MHz	Saturday	9:00 PM
Blue Ridge Traffic (SC)	146.610 MHz	Daily	9:00 PM
Mount Pisgah 220 Net	224.260 MHz	Sunday	9:00 PM
Mount Mitchell 220 Net	224.540 MHz	Monday	8:00 PM
Rutherford County QSO	147.240 MHz/ 94.8	Wednesday	9:00 PM
Tarheel Emergency Net	1.943 MHz (SSB)	Daily	7:30 PM
NC Morning Net	3.926 MHz (SSB)	Daily	7:45 AM
SATERN Net	14.265 MHz	Daily	10:00 AM
NC Evening Net	3.923 MHz (SSB)	Daily	6:30 PM
Carolinas Slow Net	3.571 MHz (CW 5-8 wpm)	Daily	8:00 PM
Carolinas Net (Late)	3.573 MHz (CW 15-18 wpm)	Daily	10:00 PM
Carolinas Net (Early)	3.573 MHz (CW 20-22 wpm)	Daily	7:00 PM

If this information has changed, please contact Michael at ai4gr@arrl.net.



Club Meeting Tuesday
January 5th, 7:00 pm
Stoney Mountain Activity Center



Subsequent club meeting
February 2nd, 7:00 pm
Stoney Mountain Activity Center



Henderson County ARES
Training Session
Fourth Monday of month
Etowah Lions Club, 7pm

